

Timely Tidbits ...

See You in 2009!

The friendly folks at "the little paper" will be taking a couple of weeks off for a little R&R, so our next issue won't be published until January 9, 2009.

We wish our readers a happy, healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing and serving you again next year.

Bank Seeks Toys for Tots

Help National City Bank brighten the holidays of less fortunate children by dropping off donations of new, unwrapped toys at the Romulus branch (9950 Wayne Road). The bank has pledged to match all donations made by Friday, December 26, to benefit the Toys for Tots program.

Office manager Chevelle Tackett says she hopes the bank's toy drive will be as successful as its November food drive, which produced over 100 meals for the Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Police Host Blood Drive

The Taylor Police Department will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22, at the former main fire station (11101 Pine Street, just south of City Hall).

To make an appointment, call Marge Maladecki at 734-374-1445. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The Taylor Police Department has received platinum sponsor recognition from the Red Cross for its extensive efforts in organizing blood drives.

Flu Shots Available

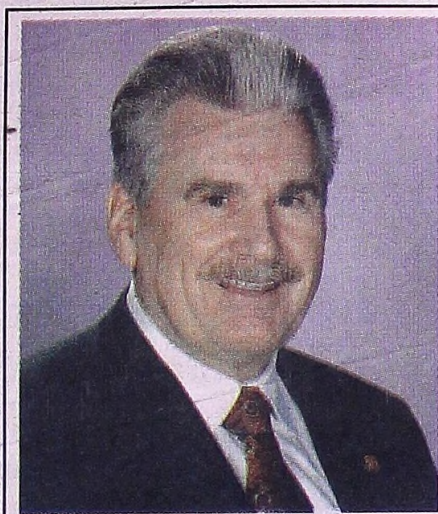
From now through the end of the year, Midwest Health Center (9301 Middlebelt Road, Romulus) will be offering flu shots for just \$20. There's no fee for an office visit, and no appointment necessary.

The shots are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gold-buying Party

On December 13 and 14, turn your broken/unwanted precious metals into extra holiday cash, and benefit the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter at the same time! For details, see page 7. □

Clock Ticking on Basham's "Smoke-free" Legislation



Senator Raymond E. Basham

State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) has been named to the Conference Committee on House Bill 4163, the House version of Basham's smoke-free workplace legislation, by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester). He will be joined on the committee by Senators Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) and Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond), and Representatives Brenda Clack (D-Flint), Andy Meisner (D-Ferndale), and Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell).

"The public support for this common-sense issue continues to grow, and I urge everyone to let these legislators know how important passing this bill into law is," stated Basham. "I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues to hammer out a law that will protect the health and well-being of all Michigan citizens."

Basham said he has been working in the Michigan Legislature since 2000 to make Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants, smoke-free. The current law won't change unless both chambers agree on the same version of legislation.

"If the bill is not passed by the end of the year, it will go back to square one and have to be reintroduced next year," he explained. "It is up to the members of the Conference Committee to reach a compromise between competing versions of the legislation."

The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 10 a.m.

Basham hopes his colleagues will agree that the legislation is important for the protection of our state's workers, and therefore act swiftly.

"A healthy future for all of Michigan is in our hands, but we only have a few days left to act and make Michigan workplaces smoke-free," the Senator said.

Every day, Basham noted, thousands of Michigan residents who work in bars,

restaurants, offices, and factories are involuntarily subjected to secondhand smoke, and it presents a serious health risk.

"According to the American Cancer Society, secondhand smoke is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing 38,000 to 65,000 nonsmokers every year," he said. "A study conducted at the University of California, Berkeley found that food-service workers are approximately 50% more likely to develop lung cancer than the general public, because many are exposed to secondhand smoke at work."

"Thirty-four states have already passed similar legislation to protect their workers from deadly exposure to secondhand smoke, including Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota," he added.

Basham Urges Reduced Passport Costs

State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) applauded the House's recent passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 31, which he sponsored alongside Representative Paul Opsommer (R-Dewitt). SCR 31 urges Congress to reduce the price of traditional passports by directly lowering the cost to consumers or by offering fully refundable federal income tax deductions.

"Tourism and travel are important parts of our local, state, and national economy," said Basham. "With stricter passport re-

quirements and a \$100-plus price tag, we are ultimately discouraging our citizens from traveling. This resolution aims to ease this issue by lowering the high costs of passports."

SCR 31 was introduced in response to the pending June 2009 implementation of federal law requiring a passport for all ground crossings, including re-entry into the United States from Canada or Mexico.

According to Basham, a Congressional investigation into passport costs has indicated that the U.S. State Department is overcharging more than \$100 million a year for passports.

"These passport requirements have a significant affect on Michigan, as residents are used to traveling back and forth between the Canadian border for work as well as travel with simply a driver's license or birth certificate," said Basham. "It is my hope that we can not only make passports more affordable, but also keep the federal government more accountable for the fees they charge."

Basham said that he and Opsommer have been working on this issue and other Western Hemisphere Trade Initiative issues for some time, and recently joined together to successfully pass a similar resolution at the National Conference of State Legislators annual policy conference this summer.

Romulus, Airport at Odds over Traffic Tickets

The Romulus Police Department's traffic patrols at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport have resulted in a battle of words between the City of Romulus and the Wayne County Airport Authority.

The dispute arose when airport officials posted signs warning departing passengers to observe speed limits because RPD officers in unmarked cars are patrolling airport entrances and exits.

"According to our Airport Police Chief, who looked at the Court records, the City of Romulus has written 10,000 tickets since July 1," said Mike Conway, Public Affairs director for the WCAA. "One of our major concerns is that these traffic stops often generate congestion at the airport entrance, particularly at the north end, which creates a safety concern."

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert argues that the effect is the just the opposite.

"The enforcement of our traffic laws has resulted in almost 250 less traffic accidents in our community in 2008 compared to accidents reported in 2007."

Lambert says the traffic patrols are in-

tended to protect the safety of everyone – Romulus residents and airport patrons.

"Contrary to the recent statements made by the Airport Authority, the City of Romulus does not have speed traps," he stated. "Speeding is a violation of the law, and our police officers, like police officers in any other city, are sworn to uphold the law. To ignore a dangerous condition, such as traveling at an excessive speed, is to ignore the law and the safety of law-abiding pedestrians and other drivers."

While WCAA officials agree that speeding is dangerous, they feel that the RPD patrols are excessive.

"It is the position of the Airport Authority that motorists should always observe traffic laws and speed limits," said Conway. "Trust me, if our airport officers note someone driving recklessly through the airport, they will be stopped and ticketed."

Lambert, however, believes that more must be done for motorists' safety, and that the WCAA has gone too far in opposing the City's patrols.

continued on page 4

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Guest Commentary

Mayor Thanks Volunteers, Employees

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus

Each and every family in Romulus has something to be thankful for this year. For some it was a good year, and for others troubling times – but, no matter what, this is the time of year to give thanks.

Still, many people are hurting this year. The economic downturn has left many of our families and friends in need. As we always do, the Romulus Goodfellows came out in full force on November 21, 22, and 26 to sell newspapers to make sure all the children of our community have a Christmas present or two – and, more importantly, that all our families will have the opportunity to sit down for dinner on Christmas Day.

Thanks to all the volunteers, organizations, schools, and businesses that help the Romulus Goodfellows every year. Whether you bought a newspaper, sold them on the street, or placed an ad in the Goodfellows publication, your contribution helped greatly. Many of our businesses go the extra mile to collect toys, money, and food for the Goodfellows. Our senior citizens help out, too. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all the great community volunteers and businesses that help to make our Goodfellows

organization one of the best in Michigan.

We also are thankful for our hometown heroes who so often go unnoticed. Thanks to their help, our city remains strong. Our police officers, firefighters, public works employees, city hall employees, parks and recreation employees, and senior services department put in a lot of time and extra effort to provide us with quality services. If you see one of our employees during your day, please join with me in thanking them for another successful year of providing excellent services to our residents.

Although we have been through some hard times this year, we can say our community remains strong – and, in these times, that means everything.

I look forward to serving you through the holidays and into the New Year, as, together, our community continues to shine. God bless our community and God bless all of you.

* * *

The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share information that is of interest to our readers.

For more information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □

Letters to the Editor

RAC Is Smart Investment in City's Future

To the Editor:

After reading several recent letters regarding the Romulus Athletic Center, I wanted to add some comments of my own.

I have been a resident of Romulus since 1967, attending and graduating from local schools. Romulus hasn't changed much over the past four decades. Several communities around us have seen substantial growth in services, facilities, and businesses. Romulus, in many ways, has lagged behind. I won't get off the track by dwelling on my complaint that it is the city's donut shape and division caused by Metro Airport that makes it especially difficult to have unity in our town. However, under the current administration's leadership, we have seen the beginnings of growth. Our new Romulus Senior Center and the RAC are the two most visible examples of this. And, while I was not personally a proponent of racetracks and casinos coming to town, I applaud Mayor Alan Lambert's pursuit of new business and development, all the way to Washington, D.C. The current economic malaise in Michigan isn't helping matters, but we would be experiencing these conditions whether or not the Mayor's office was engaged in such pursuit.

As for the RAC and its disappointing membership numbers, I am sure a large part of that is caused by the poor economic conditions in Michigan. It certainly is not the fault of the beautiful facility, or even its pricing structure. My family is very pleased with the RAC. We have used it several times a week since joining. And my wallet hardly feels the pinch, especially when compared to other recreation and entertainment options. While my family's budget has been affected by current events (i.e., no overtime at my job), our membership at the RAC would be one of the last items I would trim. I would sooner get rid of our cable TV than our RAC membership.

We, as a city, need to support such community-based ventures. If it takes a boost from the City budget to keep it go-

ing for awhile, I for one am not opposed. We will ride out the hard times, as Americans have ever done, and this jewel will eventually see the membership numbers such a facility deserves. In the meantime, I urge all those who are members to encourage their neighbors, friends, and co-workers to come and experience it for themselves.

Romulus needs world-class facilities if we want to attract more businesses and citizens and their accompanying tax dollars. The RAC can and should be a center point of a portfolio of the positive things in our city.

Stuart Kerr
Romulus

Donors Thanked

To the Editor:

I want to thank everyone who donated food baskets, turkeys, and boxed/canned goods to Helping Hand for Thanksgiving.

Thanks to the Romulus Community Schools for their fund-raiser, which garnered \$835 to buy food for the holidays, and to the Transportation Department, which delivered boxes of food.

Thanks, also, to the local Boy Scouts for their contributions and to the Romulus Fire Department for their support.

These donations made it possible for a number of Romulus residents to have a Thanksgiving meal. Without their help, it would have been a bleak holiday for many.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the residents who found it in their hearts to share what they could afford with their less fortunate neighbors.

Councilman Harry Crout
City of Romulus

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity. □

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038 • Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Phone: 734-941-1907 • Fax: 734-992-2052 • E-mail: thelittlepaper@comcast.net

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The little paper invites individuals and organizations to submit articles and letters that may be of interest to its readers; however, the little paper is not responsible for the content of such material, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. The little paper reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, inaccuracies, misspellings, and grammatical errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of the little paper. All letters, commentaries, and other submissions must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

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The little paper will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to residents in its distribution area on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, the little paper is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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(The Late) DAVID A. ATKINS
EVELYN H. ATKINS
KRISTI STEPHENS
PATRICK MEYERS
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RFD Plays in Charity Events



On December 4, teachers and parents at Merriman Elementary defeated Romulus firefighters in a basketball game to benefit the Romulus Goodfellows. The event generated donations of three large boxes of toys. A similar game at Halecreek Elementary on November 26 raised \$200 plus toys. Photo by R. E. Kadau

Romulus, Airport at Odds Over Tickets

continued from page 1

"The Airport Authority has directed their officers to interfere with Romulus Police officers lawfully performing their duties. This is unprofessional behavior, and presents a danger to Romulus Police officers and those on or around the roadways.

Lambert further stated that "... the use of Airport funds to interfere with police officers conducting their lawful duties is not only a waste of money, but also creates a danger to those on the road.

"Wouldn't Airport funds be put to better use in reducing rather than increasing parking and baggage fees?" he asked. "Is it a justifiable expense for the Airport to post a billboard that admonishes drivers not to speed because a police officer will ticket speeding drivers? Isn't every driver supposed to be operating his or her vehicle in compliance with speed and safety laws?"

Lambert speculates that airport officials' actions are a "payback" for the City's recent opposition to WCAA Master Plan changes that called for the future demolition of much of the City's south end to accommodate the construction of a runway.

"I would suggest the statements made by the Airport Authority are in retaliation against the City of Romulus, [which] successfully opposed the runway expansion."

Conway said he was "puzzled" by the Mayor's comments.

"Both the Airport Board and the City said they were pleased with the consensus that was reached on the Future and Ultimate Master Plans," he stated. "All we are doing is alerting our customers that they can save themselves some time and money by slowing down and driving safely.

"It's important to note that the Public Safety Departments and Emergency Management planning teams for both the City and the Airport work together frequently and cooperatively," he added. "This simply is a difference of opinion in the appropriate use of Public Safety resources." □

Holiday Mass Schedule

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (11280 Ozga Street, Romulus) has announced its holiday mass schedule:

- Christmas Eve mass: 4:30 p.m.
- midnight mass: 10 p.m.
- Christmas Day early mass: 9 a.m.
- Christmas Day mass: 11 a.m.
- New Year's Day early mass: 9 a.m.
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Taylor Honors Beautification Winners



Taylor Beautification Commission honorees Ted and Mary FitzPatrick (center) are congratulated by (from left) Commissioner Perry Durham; Mayor Cameron G. Priebe; Commissioners Diann Spicer, Lois Adams, Connie Fedel, Lois Nemeth, and Stan Price; liaison Shirley Parrish; and Commissioner Michele McNeely.
Photo by Dave Gorgon

The Taylor Beautification Commission has presented 34 beautification awards to residents, businesses, a church, and 2 schools. The commission, which promotes beautification and visual improvement of the city, recognizes and encourages community improvements and creates educational programs dealing with the beautification and quality of life.

The recent presentations, which took place during a ceremony at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club, recognized the largest number of individuals and groups ever.

The recipients included:

- residents Patrick and Mary McEvoy, Jane Kutney, Karen Blanchard, Juliana Gonzalez, Duane and Myra Smith, Christopher and Tracey Wiltsie, Edward Adams, Warren and Laura Lawrence, Sandra and Michael McCown, Vivian and James McMillan, Buffy and Joseph Rychlicki, Joseph Schroeder, Jimmy and Denise Simmons, Ted and Mary FitzPatrick, Richard and Sonya Schwartz, Christopher and Nikki Scharnitzke, James Newsom, and Paul and Dianna Battistone;
- The Woods of Pardee Subdivision, Act One Condominiums, Continental Plaza Apartments, Heritage Glen Apartments, Robinwood Mobile Home Park, and Parks & Ponds at The Villages of Taylor.

- businesses Dupuis Dental, Fairfax Electric, Panetta's Landscaping, Taco Bell (Allen Road), Vicar's Trailer Sales, Wade Trim Associates, and Wizard Works;
- St. Alfred Catholic Church, Fischer Elementary School, and Taylor Exemplar Academy.

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe, who was on hand for the presentations, expressed pride in knowing so many Taylor people were making a difference in the community.

Commission members are Lois Adams, Perry Durham, Connie Fedel, Michele McNeely, Lois Nemeth, Donna Petry, Stan Price, and Diann Spicer. Shirley Parrish – program manager with the City's Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation – serves as liaison to the group.

The commission meets at 5 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. To confirm meeting dates and locations, call 734-374-1450. □

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A Time for Giving Back



Romulus House restaurant's annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner, held November 26, raised \$2,250 for the Romulus Goodfellows. Co-owners Basem and Samer Al-Nimri invited the community for a free traditional meal with all the trimmings, asking only that those who could afford it make a donation. In all employees and volunteers served nearly 500 dinners. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*



A Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the American Progressive Association of Romulus on November 21 was attended by 120 people. Volunteers included president Bronson Bell, vice-president Lloyd Coleman, treasurer Elsie Trevedi, Barbara Alexander, Carl Brooks, Betsy Butler, Marie Butler, Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout, Romulus Community Schools Board of Education trustee Sandy Crout, Evelyn Foster, Vicki Gray, Nancy Moore, Barbara Underwood, Clara Williams, and John Woods.



Lila Lazarus (right), anchor and health news reporter for Fox News Detroit, was the guest speaker at a holiday tea organized by Julie Allison (left) of the City of Romulus to benefit the Romulus Goodfellows. Altogether, 140 guests brought nearly 300 games as the "price of admission" to attend the event, which featured a gift exchange, a hat contest, and music. Key organizers also included City staffers Maria Lambert and Lynn Conway. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*

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Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

Holiday Fun in Taylor



Santa arrived in Taylor on November 29 to visit with families at Santa's Magic Forest (open weekends through December) in Heritage Park.



Taylor businesswoman Cheryl Burke, of Burke Tools, found time in her busy schedule to take her grandchildren – Ashton (left), age 10, and Haydon, 7 – to visit Santa.



A variety of animated holiday displays are featured at Santa's Magic Forest. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Fish & Loaves, an organization which provides food to Downriver families. *Photos by Kathleen Trent*

WE BUY YOUR GOLD!



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Councilman and Chairman Pro Tem

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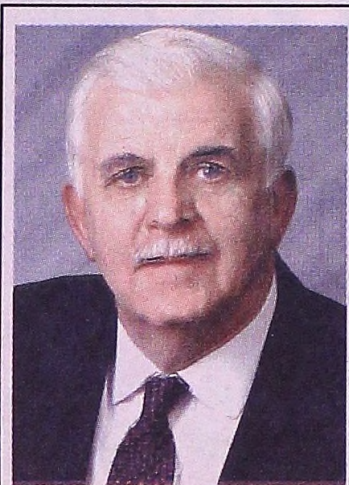
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Paid for by the Committee to Elect William Wadsworth

VERY MERRY GREETINGS

From our family to yours:
Have a safe, healthy, and happy
holiday season.

Councilman Bill Wadsworth,
Jean Wadsworth, grandchildren
Sarah, Andrew, Elizabeth, and William,
and the rest of the Wadsworth Clan

P.S. Adopt a pet!

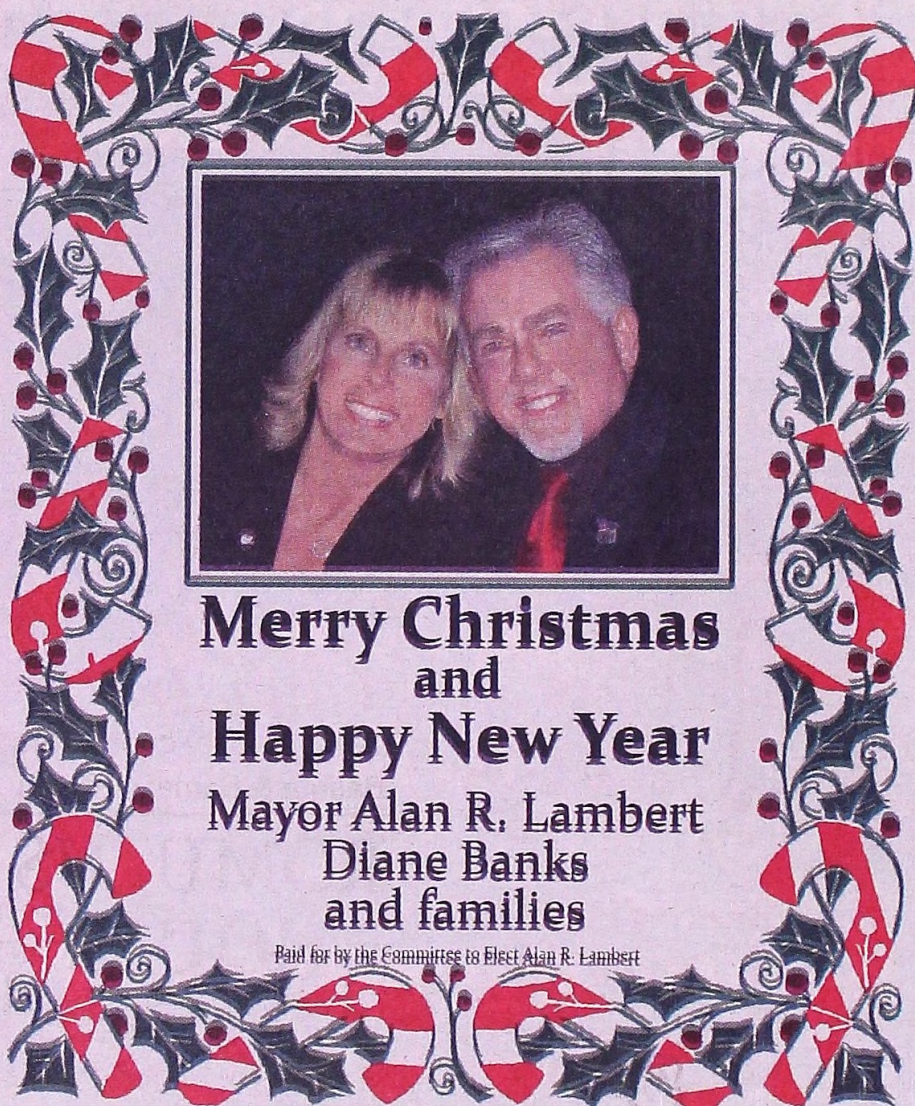


May this holy time of year
renew your spirits and
deliver an abundance of
peace, joy, and prosperity
to you and yours.

LeRoy Burcroff
Councilman, City of Romulus

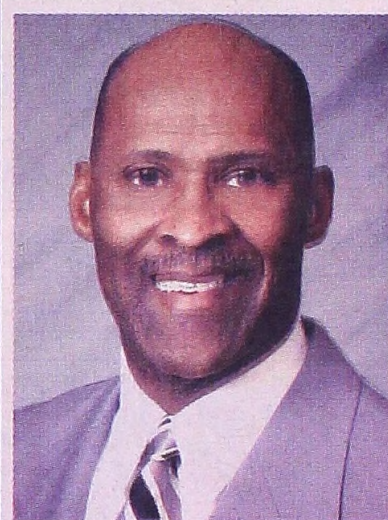


Paid for by the Committee to Elect LeRoy Burcroff



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**
Mayor Alan R. Lambert
Diane Banks
and families

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Alan R. Lambert



There's no better time than the
holiday season to say thanks
for your loyal support. It's truly
a privilege to serve you.

RANDY GEAR
Chairman, Romulus City Council

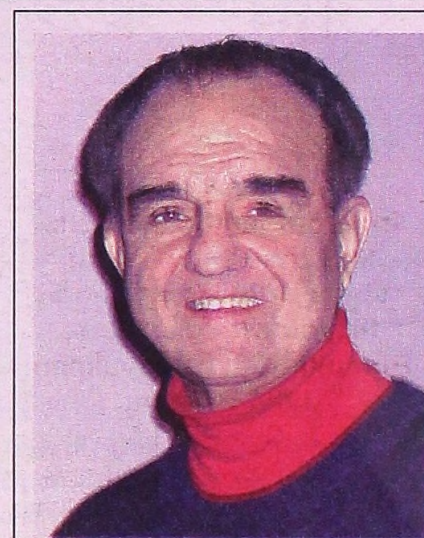
Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Randolph Gear

SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's been a pleasure serving
you this year. Best wishes for
the holidays.

Ken Mientkiewicz
Trustee
Romulus Board of Education

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ken Mientkiewicz





SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

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— Kathleen Trent



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and the City of Taylor Elected Officials

Paid for by Taylor Citizens for Good Government



GREETINGS
OF THE
SEASON

from our family to yours.
May the holiday spirit
shine in your heart and
fill you with gladness.

Romulus City Councilman
John Barden,
Mrs. Janice Barden, and
Grandchildren Andrianna,
John, Miyon, Miyona, & Brian

Paid for by the Committee to Elect John Barden



from

Councilman Harry Crout,
School Board Member
Sandy Crout,
and family:

Terri and Randy Moffat
and granddaughters
Savannah and Miranda



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year



from
all of us
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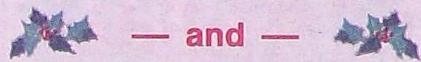
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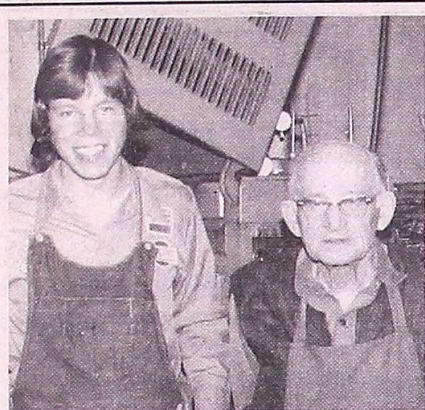
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Landis Machine Shop Celebrates 80 Years of Business in Romulus



When this photo was taken (circa 1978), Mark Lewkowicz (left) had already been working for Clelland Landis for about six years.

Editor's note: At a time when even long-established businesses are closing their doors due to our faltering economy, we are happy to recognize Landis Machine Shop of Romulus, which celebrated its 80th anniversary earlier this year.

Thanks to Mark Lewkowicz for sharing the following information about the company's history.

* * *

In 1928, Clelland B. Landis founded Landis Machine Shop in the Township of Romulus. Landis – who was, at that time, a full-time Ford Motor Company employee – opened his original shop in the basement of a house at 36435 Grant Road. In the 1930s, he built the company's present facility at 36425 Grant.

One of the earliest customers for which Landis made parts was the Meyer Aircraft Company. The first Meyer biplane was built at a factory that was also located on Grant Road, about an eighth of a mile west of the Landis shop.

Landis and Al Meyer became good friends, and their business relationship lasted for several years, even when Meyer eventually moved his business to Tecumseh, Michigan.

In the 1940s, Landis Machine Shop played a role in the war effort. The shop employed many Romulus residents, who produced parts for the military ordinance department.

In 1948, a long-lasting relationship was formed when Landis Machine Shop began producing parts for Mac Valves, which is now located in Wixom, Michigan. At that time, Earl Linderman was the Landis Machine Shop foreman. He happened to be at the Romulus Grey Iron Foundry when Walter Ludwig, the founder of Mac Valves, was there to have some castings quoted. After completing his business with the foundry, Linderman took Ludwig to the shop to meet Landis. The business relationship that they formed 60 years ago still continues today. Mac Valves picks up parts from Landis Machine Shop on a daily basis.

Mark J. Lewkowicz, the current owner, started working at Landis Machine Shop around 1972 as a Romulus High School co-op student, and continued throughout his college years. During that time, he obtained a great deal of on-the-job training.

On November 5, 1979, the Lewkowicz Corporation was formed. The original shareholders were Mark, his father John, and his brother Michael. They purchased the shop from Landis on November 19, 1979.

The equipment that Lewkowicz acquired from Landis was of a "traditional" type. In 1988, he purchased his first computer numerical controlled (CNC) lathe; his first CNC milling machine was bought in 1994. The shop now has three CNC lathes and four CNC mills. Lewkowicz believes that the ability to combine the two types of equipment (traditional and CNC) to get a job done gives Landis Machine Shop a distinct advantage over many other companies.

Of course, machines are only as good as the workers who use them, and Lewkowicz says he's been fortunate to have some of the best. One of the key employees who stayed on when the ownership changed was Edna James, a sister-in-law to Landis. She continued to work at the shop on a part-time basis even after she retired. Two other longtime employees, each with over 20 years' seniority, are Donald Dohaney and Randal Walters, who serve as group leaders for the company. In that capacity, they set up machines and provide training for the other employees.

One of the many valuable customer relationships established under Lewkowicz's oversight began in 1983, when Landis Machine Shop started doing work for United Brass Manufacturers of Romulus. Twenty-five years later, Landis is a specialty machining facility for United Brass.

Other markets that the shop has served include the air valve industry, fire extinguisher components, air and hydraulic cylinder components, the military, parts for railroad cars, and automotive parts.

Today, Lewkowicz continues to serve as president and general manager of the company. Since he himself started out as a co-op student 36 years ago, he likes to hire students from area high-school machine trades programs. Training young workers of the future is important, he says, because

he believes that the manufacturing industry will play a vital role in the economic recovery of our state and our nation.

Lewkowicz is an active member of the advisory committees for the machine trades programs at Huron High School, the Taylor Career Center, and Henry Ford Community College, as well as the automotive program at Romulus High School. He is also a

25-year member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

"Landis Machine Shop may not be the largest business in Romulus, but it is the oldest," said Lewkowicz. "Our company slogan – 'Where History, Technology, and the Future Come Together' – characterizes the unique combination of experience and expertise that we bring to each job." □



Landis Machine Shop was founded in 1928 in the basement of this house, located at 36435 Grant Road.



The shop as it looked in the early 1980s.



Standing in front of a Haas CNC milling machine, the 2008 Landis Machine Shop employees – (from left) Mark J. Lewkowicz, Anthony DeLaFuente, Neil Sly, Steve Torres, Donald Dohaney, and Randal Walters – displayed a variety of the parts they produce.

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Mary E. (Smith) Clark, Former "Sassy Seniors" Columnist, Mourned



Mary E. (Smith) Clark was fondly known to many in Romulus as the former author of our "Sassy Seniors" column. (Photo: 1950)

Mary Evelyn (Smith) Clark of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, November 29, 2008, at the age of 88.

The daughter of Marion Anderson and Ada Susan (Lands) Smith was born in Haldeman, Kentucky, on Thursday, July 29, 1920.

Mary had a lifelong thirst for knowledge, and education was very important to her. After graduating from Haldeman High School as the Class of 1938 salutatorian, she attended Kentucky's Morehead State Teachers College (now Morehead State University) before marrying Harlen Nathaniel "Casey" Clark on July 21, 1940. In 1959, she earned an associate's degree in commercial arts from Yankton Business College in South Dakota. She also took night classes in French through Michigan's Detroit Public Schools system in 1966.

Mary held many different jobs over the years. As a teenager, she was the first girl in Haldeman to have a daily newspaper route. During her senior year in high school, she worked for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program known as the Pack Horse Library, which delivered reading materials to rural Kentucky residents who had no access to public library facilities. (Despite the program's name, Mary covered her route's many miles on foot.) She also performed various duties at school, including working in the library, substitute teaching for absent instructors, and assisting her English teacher/mentor, Hildreth Maggard.

As an adult, Mary was variously employed as a:

- file and statistics clerk (R. L. Polk & Co., Cincinnati, OH – 1948),
- salesperson (The Fashion Shop, Detroit, MI – 1953 to 1954),
- secretary (Sioux City Tent & Awning Co., IA – 1960; and Ohio Citizens Trust Co., Toledo – 1960 to 1962),

- office manager/corporation officer (Wm. M. Green Co., Detroit, MI – 1963 to 1973), and
- bookkeeper (Daytronics, Inc., Livonia, MI – 1977).

Mary also worked a number of jobs in the entertainment industry, doing everything from acting as a talent agent for radio and stage performers from WVLK-AM (Versailles, KY – 1949 to 1950) to booking talent and doing publicity work for her husband's Mack Avenue, Detroit-based Lazy Ranch Boys Barn Dance, which aired on WJR-AM and CKLW-TV (1954 to 1958). During those years, Mary became friends with country-music entertainers like Ernest Tubb, the Osborne Brothers, June Carter, Minnie Pearl, "Little" Jimmy Dickens, the Wilburn Brothers, Jean Shepard, Skeeter Davis, and Buddy Emmons.

Most recently, Mary applied another of her talents – writing – to the world of local journalism. During the 1970s and '80s, she interviewed and reported on national and local country-music artists for the Metro Detroit publication, *Country in the City News*. She also wrote a senior-citizens column for *The Romulus News* (aka "the little paper") for many years.

Of all Mary's various careers, the one that she called her "greatest joy" was being a wife, mother, and grandmother. At family gatherings, surrounded by generations of descendants, she would look around, beaming with pride, and joke, "Just look at all these people who wouldn't be here if it wasn't for me!"

No one was more proud of her country than Mary. The sight of an American flag waving or the sound of our national anthem playing always brought a simultaneous smile to her lips and tear to her eye. It's no wonder that she loved traveling across this great nation, visiting nearly every state during her lifetime.

Mary was a prolific poet, as well as a songwriter with several recordings to her credit. She was perhaps most proud of "I've Got the Blues," which was recorded by Ruby Dandridge as well as Richard Maltby & His Orchestra and "Evelyn Harlene" (her daughter).

Other "passions" included reading, using her extraordinary "green thumb" to garden and grow houseplants, and rooting for her beloved University of Kentucky "Wildcats" basketball team.

Mary was the mother of four children: Evelyn Harlene (Clark) Atkins (Romulus), (the late) Billy Howard Clark, Mrs. Danny Walter (Carol Ann Clark) Cox (Dearborn Heights, MI), and (the late) Michael Ray Clark.

She is survived by 11 grandchildren:

- Evelyn's children: Kristi Noreen Stephens (Romulus), Mrs. Richard Walter (Jalaina Dawn Stephens) Downes (Windsor, ON, CA), Mickey Donald (Ann Marie Tomrell) Kreutzer II (Huron Township, MI), and Mrs. Patrick John (Lisa Noel Kreutzer) Meyers (Romulus);

- Billy's children: William Casey (Susan Beth Tilley) Clark (South Rockwood, MI), Mrs. William Henry (Melody Lynn Clark) Duncan IV (Bakersfield, CA), and Mrs. Thomas Dean (Michelle Rae Clark) Anderson (Vacaville, CA); and
- Carol's children: Mrs. Kevin Michael (Mary Faith Cox) Fisher (Dearborn Heights), Mrs. Burton (Kathleen Ann Cox) Kowalewski (Brownstown Township, MI), Danny Truell (Carry Lynn Warmack) Cox (Flat Rock, MI), and Mrs. Michael Joseph (Sarah Elizabeth Cox) Miller (Dearborn Heights).

She is also survived by 27 great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren:

- William's daughter and stepdaughters: Brittany Marie Clark (Bakersfield), Jennifer Elizabeth Ferioli, and Emma Rose Ferioli;
- Mary's son: Steven Michael Fisher;
- Melody's children: Joseph Ryan Stockman, Nicholas Howard Stockman, and Natalie Kanela Duncan;
- Kathleen's children: Brandon Michael Halcomb, Alex Robert Halcomb, and Joshua Tyler Kowalewski;
- Jalaina's daughter: Danielle Brooke Downes;
- Danny's stepchildren and children: Theodor James (Terri Ann Rodriguez) Johnston (Aziano, Italy), Travis William Johnston (Southgate, MI), Danyelle Lauren Cox, and Morgan Lynn Cox;
- Mickey's children: Mickey Donald Kreutzer III and Briana Ashley Kreutzer;
- Lisa's stepchildren and children: Tracey Lynne Meyers (Tempe, AZ), John Patrick Meyers (Livonia, MI), Christopher Michael Kreutzer, Ronald David Kreutzer, Amanda Elizabeth Kreutzer, and Samantha Rae Kreutzer;
- Michelle's sons: Andrew Thomas Anderson and Tyler Dean Anderson; and
- Sarah's children: Jacob Thomas Miller and Ashleigh Faith Miller.

She is further survived by a great-great-grandson (Amanda's son, Aaron-Jamison Michael Kreutzer) and a step-great-great-grandson (Theodor's son, Dylan James Johnston).

Others who survive her include:

- a brother: Jackey Claborn Lee (Shirley Fay Sanders) Smith (Morehead);
- a half-brother: Charles Edward (Rebecca Jo Patterson) Blevins (South Rockwood);
- a sister: Marian Anderson (Smith) Hunt (Garden City, MI);
- a brother-in-law: Harold Otis Clark (Columbus, OH);
- 6 sisters-in-law: Cora Zelma (Clark) Evans (Ironton, OH), Alice Ruth (Clark) Bradley (Glasgow, KY), Esther (Clark) Shay (Ironton), Bessie Lois (Clark) Gerber (Columbus), Myrtle Mildred (Clark) Bays (Walton, KY), and Linda Faye (Cox) Smith (Morehead);
- a host of nephews and nieces;
- a former son-in-law: Michael Brooks Stephens (Redmond, OR); and

- 2 former daughters-in-law: Bessie Mae (Kirk) McLeod (Gladwin, MI) and Kay Lavonne (Perry) Hahn (Garden City).

- Mary was preceded in passing by:
- her husband;
- 2 sons-in-law: Mickey Donald Kreutzer I and David Andrew Atkins;
- a great-grandson: Jalaina's son, Michael Andrew Downes;
- her parents;
- her stepfather: William Robert Blevins;
- 2 brothers: Bill Dave Smith and Robert Talmadge "Toodle" Smith;
- a sister, Jalaina Alice Smith;
- 4 stepbrothers: James Albert Blevins, Oather Lee Blevins, William Robert Blevins Jr., and Oatha Hilton Blevins;
- her father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Sarah Ann (Hamm) Clark;
- 4 brothers-in-law: Harshel Bruce Clark, George E. Clark, John Allen Clark, and Buddy Bruce Hunt;
- 4 sisters-in-law: Mable Lillian (Clark) Estep, Elsie M. Clark, Mollie Jo (Clark) Blevins, and Ruth Dolores (White) Smith;
- a former sister-in-law: Hannah Gloria (Carpenter) Lewis.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 27, at the Haldeman Church of God, with Pastor Donnie Rivers officiating. Burial of cremains will be in the Clark Family Cemetery (Soldier, KY). Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial contributions to Boys Town (which Mary supported for more than 60 years) or any charitable organization would be greatly appreciated by the family. □

Hilltop

By Mary E. Clark (age 16)

When my burdens are great, and
the cares of the day
Weigh so heavy I'm ready to drop,
I seek peace and quiet in a place
that I call
Nature's Chapel – a lovely hilltop.

High on a hilltop, an arm's length
from Heaven,
Free from worry, want and distress,
This feeling must come from some
magic spell
Cast by the wind's soft caress.

For who can stand on the top of a
hill
And look at the world down below
Without feeling that here his spirit
is free,
His soul set apart from the world
he has known.

This feeling is worth every drop
that I sweat
As I climb without rest to the top,
And if I could own any part of this
earth,
My choice would be a hilltop.

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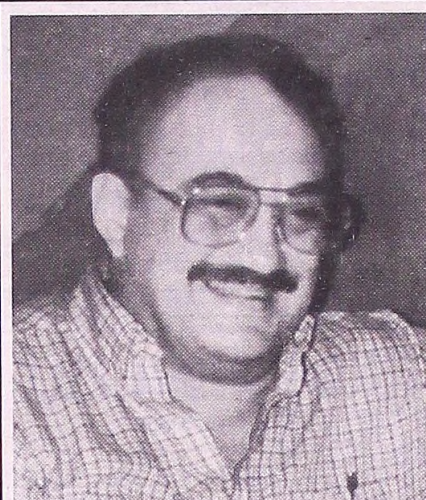
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Obituaries

Stephan F. "Steve" Cappuccio



Steve Cappuccio

Stephan F. Cappuccio of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Monday, November 24, 2008, at the age of 79.

The native of Worcester, Massachusetts, was born Tuesday, January 29, 1929.

Steve was a member of both the Moose and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He loved warm weather and working in the yard, cutting the grass and gardening. His interests included golf and automobiles.

Surviving Steve are a daughter, Toni Cappuccio (Avondale, OH); 2 sons, Carl Cappuccio (Romulus) and Paul (Cheryl) Cappuccio (FL); and 2 grandchildren, Kevin Engoran (Denver, CO) and Kyle Engoran (Mayer, AZ).

Among those who preceded him in passing were his wife, Marie Cappuccio, and his parents, Stephan and Mildred (Chandler) Cappuccio.

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Cremation rites were accorded. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Michael Jay Markus

Michael Jay Markus of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the age of 59.

He was born in Garden City, Michigan, on Sunday, October 9, 1949.

Surviving Michael are his wife, Linda Sue Markus; 2 daughters, Sherri (Douglas) O'Leary and Kristi (Mark) Ferro; a sister, Geraldine (Harry) Johnson; 2 brothers, James Markus and Patrick (Jean) Markus; and 3 grandchildren, Andrea Deline, James Deline, and Hanna Ferro.

Among those who preceded him in

passing were his father, Mike Markus; his mother, Eileen Conners Markus; and a son, Michael Gene Markus.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 21, at Uht Funeral Home (Westland, MI), with the Reverend Mark Miller officiating.

Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Memorial contributions to the Mikey G. Markus Memorial Scholarship Fund or Romulus High School would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Billie F. Suggs

Billie F. Suggs of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at the age of 71.

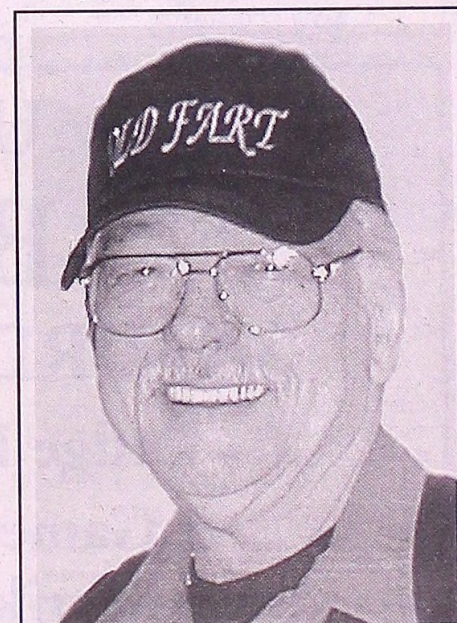
The native of Hackleburg, Alabama, was born on Wednesday, January 13, 1937.

Billie, who served in the U.S. Air Force for 13 years, was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed playing cards and woodworking.

Surviving Billie are his wife, Joan (Evan-chuck) Suggs; 2 sons, Billy (Maggie) Suggs and Daniel Suggs; a daughter, Pamala Suggs; 6 stepchildren, Buddy Clark, Jerry Clark, Scot (Deanna) Herrgard, Karen Clark, Denise Clark, and Lisa Moore; 3 grandchildren; 8 step-grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Daniels.

Among those who preceded him in passing were his parents, Thomas and Leona (Howell) Suggs; a brother, James Suggs; and 3 sisters, Betty, Melzie, and Jimmie Nell Suggs.

A funeral service was held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with pastor Jackie Daniels (Kirby Free Will Baptist



Billie F. Suggs

Church, Flat Rock, MI) officiating. Cremation rites were accorded.

Memorial contributions to the family for later designation would be appreciated.

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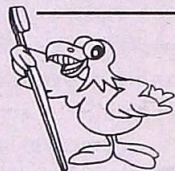
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Tickets must be purchased in advance by January 15, 2009 (\$40 per couple or \$20 per person). Limited to the first 200 bowlers.

For ticket information, call 734-893-0694 or email info@romuluschamber.com.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the CAF 5 Prescription Drug Program.



SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS!

With best wishes from all of us at this season of good cheer! We're grateful for your support during the past year.

Sending

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

and very best wishes from
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We look forward to
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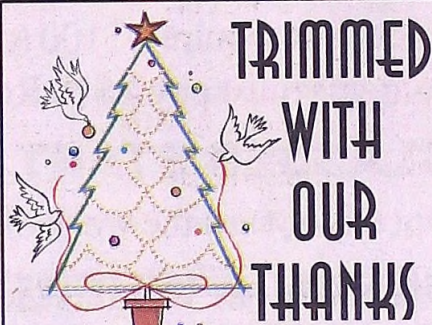
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and our best wishes too, to
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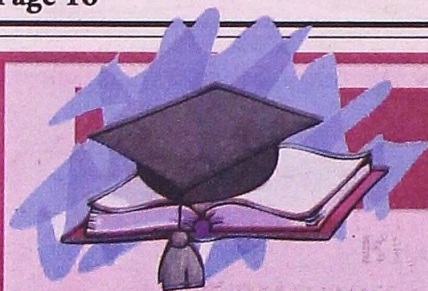
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It's NEVER too late to graduate!

Romulus Adult Education

will begin registration starting January 5th, 2009! We will be enrolling for:

GED Preparation • Certified Nurse Assistant • High School Completion

If you are 18 years of age or older, you qualify for free* Adult Education classes.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

High School Completion and GED Classes for 18 and over are **FREE***.

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) class is \$500 – due by February 24th. (Class starts March 3rd, 2009.)

Tuition-based classes require a \$100 (cash or check) deposit – due at registration.

*All students must pay a \$10 Registration Fee – due at registration.

WHEN DO CLASSES START & HOW LONG DO THEY RUN?

All classes, except CNA, start the week of February 2nd and run for a 16-week semester.

WHEN & WHERE CAN I REGISTER?

Register at our Adult Ed Office, located at the
Mt. Pleasant Life-Long Learning Center on Hannan Road in Romulus.

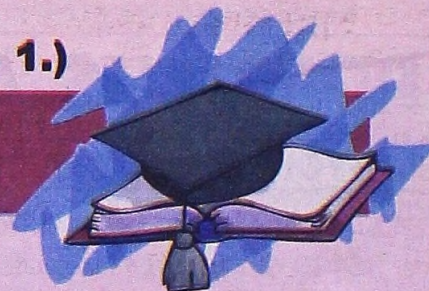
Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Adult Education is Friday, February 6th, 2008, or when a class fills.

For more information, call 734-532-1956.

(For driving directions, call 734-532-1950 and press 1.)

Earn Your High School Diploma!



*If you are behind in credits or
not finding success in a traditional high school, consider*

Romulus Community High School

*CHS is a Non-Traditional High School Program
serving 16- to 19-year-olds who live in Wayne County.*

Program offers late-start, credit-recovery, and test-out options.

WHEN & WHERE CAN I REGISTER?

Register at Community High School's Main Office, located at the
Mt. Pleasant Life-Long Learning Center on Hannan Road in Romulus.

Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration for "School of Choice" is January 19th through February 6th, 2009!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for School of Choice students at CHS
is Friday, February 6th, or when classes fill.

For more information, call 734-532-1953.

(For driving directions, call 734-532-1950 and press 1.)